

Annex No. 3		First Cycle Studies Course Programme			
1.	Course Title	Alternative Investments			
2.	Code	FIN 420			
3.	Study programme	Finance			
4.	Organizer of the study programme (university unit i.e. institute, chair, department)	Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje Faculty of Economics - Skopje Department of Finance			
5.	Level (first, second, third cycle)	First cycle			
6.	Academic year / semester	4 th year/ 8 th semester	7.	Number of ECTS credits	7.5
8.	Professor	Prof. Kiril Jovanovski, PhD			
9.	Preconditions for enrolment	None			
10.	<p>Course Objectives (Competencies):</p> <p>Course objectives are to provide conceptual understanding of the financial markets functions, flow of funds, interest rates level and alternative investments. Learning then, by elaborating the institutional frame, structure and performances of the financial system and its role, goals and decision-making process the financial intermediaries are making, the student will be competent for investing in alternative financial instruments. This course offers both theoretical and practical view on the world of managing the alternative investments.</p> <p>Modern finances face changing financial instruments characteristics, due to changing investors preferences, as well as changes in regulation of the financial market's operations. This two process lead to increasing the role and level of alternative investments in the balances of institutional investors.</p> <p>After the course student will know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explain how the financial markets operate, • analyze the structure and operation of financial institutions that participate in the financial markets, • understand the principles and the functioning of the financial instruments on the international markets, • gain analytical skills for specific problems and questions related with the alternative investments, • to identify the usual characteristics of alternative investments, • define basic classes of alternative investments, and, • use valuation techniques for the alternative investments. 				
11.	<p>Course content:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Traditional vs. Alternative Investments 2. Correlation and Efficient Frontiers 3. Due Diligence 4. Hedge Funds: Structure, Categories, and Biases, Relative Value and Event Driven Strategies, Macro and Managed Futures Strategies, Funds of Funds, Equity Strategies 5. Real Assets: Timberland, Farmland, and Intellectual Property, Real Estate Equity and Markets 6. Private Equity: Introduction and Performance Analysis, LBO, VC, and Debt Strategies, LBO, VC, and Debt Strategies 7. Commodities: Beta Products, Alpha Products, and Benchmarks 8. Structured Products: Credit Default Swaps (CDS), Collateralized Debt Obligations (CDO) 9. Capstone: The Risks and Rewards of Alternative Investments 				

	10. Liquid Alternatives					
12.	Learning methods: Lectures, slides, guest speakers, student projects and presentations, interactive debates, case studies, quizzes and homework assignments.					
13.	Total hours	7.5 ECTS x 30 hours = 225 hours				
14.	Allocation of hours per activity	90+30+15+90= 225 hours				
15.	Types of teaching activates	15.1.	Lectures	90 hours		
		15.2.	Exercises (Seminars)	0 hours		
16.	Other types of activities	16.1.	Projects	30 hours		
		16.2.	Individual assignments	15 hours		
		16.3	Homework study	90 hours		
17.	Grading method: 80+10+10=100 points					
	17.1.	Tests (Domain, Essay, Multiple choice exam, Case)			80%	
	17.2.	Individual or group projects / assessment			10 %	
	17.3.	Attendance and class participation			10%	
18.	Grading scale		less than 50 points	5 (five) (F)		
			from 51 to 60 points	6 (six) (E)		
			from 61 to 70 points	7 (seven) (D)		
			from 71 to 80 points	8 (eight) (C)		
			from 81 to 90 points	9 (nine) (B)		
			from 91 to 100 points	10 (ten) (A)		
19.	Preconditions for taking the final exam		Completed activities from points 15 and 16			
20.	Language		Macedonian			
21.	Evaluation method		Internal evaluation and survey			
22.	Literature					
	Compulsory literature					
		No.	Author	Title	Publisher	Year
	22.1.	1.	Donald R. Chambers, Keith H. Black, Nelson J. Lacey	Alternative Investments: A Primer for Investment Professionals	CFA Institute Research Foundation	(April 25, 2018)
	Additional literature					
		No.	Author	Title	Publisher	Year
22.2.	1.	Donald R. Chambers Mark J. P. Anson Keith H. Black Hossein B. Kazemi CAIA Association	Alternative Investments: CAIA Level I	Wiley; 4th edition	(March 24, 2020)	